

REMARKS

Claims 17-40 are pending in the instant application. Claims 17, 27, 30-32 and 34-39 are currently withdrawn from consideration. No amendments have been made by way of this response. Thus, Claims 18-26, 28, 29, 33, and 40 are presently under examination and subject to an election of species requirement.

In the Official Action delivered July 17, 2007, the Examiner required an election of allegedly patentably distinct species within the group of second epitopes recited in Claim 18.

In response to this election of species requirement, Applicants elect SEQ ID NO. 354, which corresponds to Melan-A₄₅₋₅₄ in Table 1B, without traverse. Claims 18-26, 28, 29, 33, and 40 encompass the elected species.

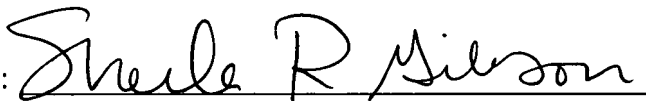
Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.141, upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all limitations of an allowable generic claim.

Applicants submit that the present Application is in condition for examination on the merits and respectfully request the same. If any issues remain with respect to the restriction requirement, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicants' representative at the number provided below in order to resolve such issues promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-3140.

Respectfully submitted,

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